

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, NATO

REF: USNATO 4492

SUBJ: PROPOSED NATO SYMPOSIUM ON ENERGY

DELIVER TO GOODSPEED OPENING OF BUSINESS SEPT 27

1. MISSION SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IN SEPT 27
ECONAD DISCUSSION OF SYMPOSIUM ON "ENERGY PROBLEMS AND
EAST-WEST RELATIONS."

(A) US CONTINUES TO QUESTION USEFULNESS AND APPROPRIATENESS
OF UNCLASSIFIED ECONOMIC SYMPOSIA ON SENSITIVE EAST-WEST
SUBJECTS WITHIN ECONAD PURVIEW. HOWEVER, WE CONCUR IN
MISSION'S JUDGEMENT THAT THERE IS LITTLE TO BE GAINED FROM
OPPOSING THE CONCEPT IN PRINCIPLE IF, IN FACT, WE WOULD BE
ISOLATED ON THIS ISSUE.

(B) UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, US WOULD BE WILLING TO ENTER
TAIN IDEA IF SYMPOSIUM ON A SPECIFIC SUBJECT THAT IS USEFUL
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AND APPROPRIATE TO THE ECONOMIC ROLE OF NATO.

(C) WE DO NOT CONSIDER THAT PROPOSED SUBJECT MEETS THIS CRITERIA. THERE IS ALSO CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL THAT UNCLASSIFIED DISCUSSION BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS COULD BE USED AS PLATFORM FOR EMBARRASING STATEMENTS ON SUCH POLITICALLY SENSITIVE SUBJECTS SUCH AS A POSSIBLE US-SOVIET NATURAL GAS AGREEMENT. THE OBVIOUSLY SOUGHT AFTER PUBLICITY SURROUNDING SUCH A MEETING WOULD NOT LIKELY DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THE PRIVATE CHARACTER OF SYMPOSIUM PRONOUNCEMENTS AND THE POLICIES OF NATO MEMBERS AND COULD EASILY BE MISINTERPRETED IN ARAB WORLD.

(D) US REP SHOULD EXPRESS US OPPOSITION TO PROPOSED SYMPOSIUM. IF ALTERNATIVE SUBJECT SUGGESTED WHICH GAINS SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT AND APPEARS MEET CRITERIA OF PARA (B), US REP SHOULD SEEK FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. RUSH

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